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Agenda items 20, 48, 49, 50, 51, 53, 55, 57, 58 (b), 59, 60, 61, 62, 69, 83, 96, 104, 105, 106, 114 and 123

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Culture of peace

Information and communication technologies for development

Macroeconomic policy questions

Sustainable development

Globalization and interdependence

Eradication of poverty and other development issues

Operational activities for development: South-South cooperation for development

Towards global partnerships

Agriculture development and food security

Social development

Advancement of women

Promotion and protection of human rights

The rule of law at the national and international levels

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Letter dated 8 March 2010 from the Permanent Representative of Mexico to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly

I have the honour to transmit to you herewith the Latin American and Caribbean Unity Summit Declaration, which was adopted during the first Latin American and Caribbean Unity Summit, held in the Mayan Riviera, Mexico, on 22 and 23 February 2010 (see annex I). I am also pleased to transmit to you the Cancún Declaration, adopted on 23 February 2010 (see annex II).

I should be grateful if you would have this letter as well as these declarations circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 20, 48, 49, 50, 51, 53, 55, 57, 58 (b), 59, 60, 61, 62, 69, 83, 96, 104, 105, 106, 114 and 123.

(*Signed*) Claude **Heller**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative to the United Nations

Annex I to the letter dated 8 March 2010 from the Permanent Representative of Mexico to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly

[Original: English and Spanish]

LATIN AMERICAN AND CARIBBEAN UNITY SUMMIT DECLARATION

We, the Heads of State and Government of the Latin American and Caribbean countries, gathered at the Unity Summit, constituted by the 21st Summit of the Rio Group and the 2nd CALC in the Mayan Riviera, Mexico on February 22 and 23, 2010,

Reaffirming our conviction to decidedly advance toward an organization that encompasses all Latin-American and Caribbean States;

Reaffirming the need to undertake efforts, with our peoples, that will enable us to move forward in the unity and the political, economic, social and cultural integration, foster social welfare and quality of life, economic growth and promote our independent and sustainable development on the basis of democracy, equality and the widest social justice;

Reasserting our decision to promote the harmonization and convergence of actions among these mechanisms through the exchange of experiences and the identification of areas of cooperation, based on the principles of solidarity, flexibility, pluralism, diversity, complementarity of actions and voluntary participation in the initiatives envisaged.

Renewing our commitment to integrated regional development which should be inclusive and equitable, taking into account the importance of ensuring favorable treatment for the small vulnerable economies and land-locked and island developing states.

Reiterating also our commitment to the building of a more just, equitable and harmonious international order based on respect for International Law and the principles of the Charter of the United Nations, including the sovereign equality of States, the peaceful settlement of disputes, respect for territorial integrity and non-intervention in the internal affairs of States. We reaffirm our commitment to the defense of sovereignty and the right of any State to establish its own political system, free from threats, aggression and unilateral coercive measures and in an environment of peace, stability, justice, democracy and respect for human rights.

Stressing the necessity of having our own regional space that consolidates and projects the Latin American and Caribbean identity based on shared principles and values; and on the ideals of unity and democracy of our peoples;

With the conviction that political coordination based on mutual trust among our governments is essential to foster our own solutions and to promote peace in the region; to contribute to the defense, strengthening and consolidation of our own democratic institutions; to promote and broaden political

dialogue with other States and groups of States; and to strengthen multilateralism and democracy in international decision-making;

Recognizing the valuable contribution of the Permanent Mechanism for Consultation and Political Coordination – Rio Group – to the central themes of the regional and global agendas in favor of the highest aspirations of our countries;

Underscoring at the same time the historic significance for our region of the Summit of Latin America and the Caribbean on Integration and Development (CALC) and the importance of its agenda to advance the regional integration and establish effective commitments to joint actions to promote sustainable development of the States in the region;

Endorsing our commitment to the preservation of democratic values in the region and with the full and unrestricted functioning of institutions and the rule of law and with full respect and observance of human rights, all of which constitute essential objectives promoted by our countries; Convinced that democracy is one of our region's most valued conquests, that the peaceful power transmission through institutional means and with strict compliance to the constitutional rules in each of our States is the product of a continuous and irreversible process on which the region admits no interruptions or stepping backward.

Sharing the conviction that it is necessary to establish effective commitments for joint action with the aim of strengthening regional integration and to promote the sustainable development in harmony with nature and social welfare, of all our States;

Determined to promote the synergy, harmonization, and complementarity of cooperation activities between the different integration mechanisms,

We have decided:

1. To constitute the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States as our own regional space encompassing all Latin American and Caribbean States,

2. To consolidate and globally project, through the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States, the Latin American and Caribbean identity based, among others, on the following principles and common values:

    - the respect for international law
    - the sovereign equality of States
    - the non-use nor the threat of use of force
    - democracy
    - the respect for human rights
    - respect of the environment, taking into consideration the environmental, economic, and social pillars of sustainable development

- international cooperation for sustainable development
- the unity and integration of Latin-American and Caribbean countries
- an ongoing dialogue that promotes peace and regional security

3. The Community of Latin American and Caribbean States will work based on:

- solidarity
- social inclusion
- equity and equal opportunities
- complementarity
- flexibility
- voluntary participation
- plurality
- diversity

4. That the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States embraces the legacy of the Rio Group and the Summit of Latin America and the Caribbean on Integration and Development (CALC).

5. That the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States should, as a priority:

- Encourage, the regional integration, aiming towards the promotion of our sustainable development.
- Promote political coordination, the enhancement of the Latin-American and Caribbean agenda in global forums and a better positioning of Latin America and the Caribbean in the face of relevant international developments.
- Encourage the dialogue processes with other States, groups of countries and regional organizations, in order to strengthen the presence of the region in the international arena.
- Promote the communication, cooperation, articulation, coordination, complementarity and synergy among the sub-regional organisms and institutions.
- Increase our ability to develop specific programs on dialogue and international cooperation both within the region and with other States and international actors.
- Strengthen cooperation on the issues and taking into account both the CALC Declaration of Salvador-Bahia mandate, and the Montego Bay Action Plan and on other documents that could be incorporated, based on the broadest integration efforts.
- Promote the implementation our own mechanisms for peaceful conflict resolution.

6. As long as the process for constituting the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States is not complete, maintain a unified forum, in which all the Latin American and Caribbean States

take part, that preserves the Rio Group and CALC with their respective working methods, practices, and procedures, in order to ensure that their mandates are fulfilled, as well as the capacity for political coordination that will enable them to issue statements on or act in the event of international developments.

The meetings of the Rio Group and CALC will be held through this unified forum, according to the calendar of meetings of both mechanisms. Nevertheless, the summits of 2011 in Venezuela and of 2012 in Chile will be held.

Mayan Riviera, Mexico, 23 February 2010

Annex II to the letter dated 8 March 2010 from the Permanent Representative of Mexico to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly

[Original: English and Spanish]

DECLARATION OF CANCÚN

1. The Heads of State and Government of the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean, gathered at the Unity Summit, consisting of the 21st Summit of the Rio Group and the 2nd Latin American and Caribbean Summit on Integration and Development (CALC), in the Mayan Riviera, Mexico, on 23 February 2010;

2. *Determined* to build a common space for the purpose of deepening the political, economic, social and cultural integration of our region and to establish effective commitments for joint action to promote sustainable development in Latin America and the Caribbean in a framework of unity, democracy, full respect for human rights, solidarity, cooperation, complementarity and political coordination;

3. *Convinced* that the Latin American and Caribbean region should continue to strengthen its presence in the *fora* of which it is part and state its perspective on major issues and events on the global agenda;

4. *Highlighting* the importance of promoting communication, cooperation, harmonization, synergy, convergence of actions and exchange of experiences among the different sub-regional integration processes and mechanisms;

5. *Endorsing* our commitment to effective multilateralism and to the United Nations as the forum par excellence for the promotion of peace, human rights, international cooperation for development and for building a fair and equitable world economic system; and

6. *Endorsing* also the principles of solidarity, flexibility, gradualism, pluralism, diversity, complementarity of actions and voluntary participation embodied in the Summit on Integration and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean in Salvador, Bahia, as a formula to address the challenges facing our region and to achieve our goals,

Have decided to:

1. *Enhance* the political dialogue among our States and translate, through political coordination, our principles and values into consensus. The region needs an entity of strengthened political coordination that will support its international position and will result in swift and effective action to promote Latin American and Caribbean interests in relation to the new issues on the international agenda.

2. *Enhance*, in this regard, the coordination of regional positions ahead of meetings and conferences of global reach, and adopt a more dynamic profile for political consultation and dialogue with other regions and countries in the belief that such dialogue contributes to project the region and increase its influence in the international, global and interdependent arena.

3. *Reaffirm* that the preservation of democracy and democratic values, the validity of institutions and the rule of law, and the commitment to the full respect and observance of all human rights for everyone are all essential objectives of our countries.

4. *Promote* an integrated agenda, based on the heritage of the Rio Group and the CALC agreements, as well as those of the existing cooperation, coordination and integration mechanisms and bodies, which together represent a valuable regional asset that is sustained on principles and shared values, in order to give continuity to our mandates through a work program that promotes effective linkages, cooperation, equitable economic growth, social justice, and in harmony with nature for sustainable development and the integration of Latin America and the Caribbean as a whole.

5. *Agree*, to develop a work program around the following priority areas and lines of action:

Cooperation between the regional and sub-regional integration mechanisms

6. *Intensify* the dialogue, coordination, interaction, consensus, synergies and convergence of actions among the regional and sub-regional integration mechanisms of Latin America and the Caribbean in order to deepen integration and accelerate regional development through the formulation of common and complementary projects.

7. *Call upon* the regional and sub-regional organizations and mechanisms to promote specific schemes that favor the exchange of experiences and the identification of areas of cooperation, as well as the appropriate synergies and convergence of actions among the different sub-regional integration processes, in order to take specific steps that enable us to advance more deeply into the various dimensions of integration.

Economic matters

International financial crisis

8. *We have positive expectations* derived from some indications of recovery in the global economy. Nevertheless, we recognize the continued severe impact of the crisis on some countries in the region. In particular we note the special challenges faced by middle-income countries, including those that are small, vulnerable and highly indebted and the need for greater attention by the international community in assisting their recovery.

9. In view of the impact of the last international financial crisis on the region, *promote* a closer cooperation regarding financial and regulatory policies. We propose, in this regard, a broad

dialogue, consulting as appropriate at the level of regional experts or Ministers of Finance or their equivalent, so as to build a new international financial architecture that guarantees the democratization and transparency of international financial management, and the strengthening of the regulatory mechanisms to establish effective governance, crisis minimization and timely responses to future crises.

10. *Stress* that the reform of international financial institutions should consider the appropriateness of international financial instruments to the financing needs of developing countries, including the availability of preventive instruments.

11. *Support* a substantial reform of the financial regulations, according to each country's internal legislation, in order to achieve a global regulatory system that is more representative, equitable and sustainable in the long term.

12. *Request* that the Ministers of Finance or their equivalent design a strategy for the progressive development of a regional and sub-regional financial architecture that would include the consideration of the following proposals:

a) a multilateral and voluntary payment system based on existing experiences in the region, including mechanisms for payment in national currencies.
b) evaluation of existing experiences in the field of common currencies.
c) strengthening or creation of regional mechanisms for the stabilization of the balance of payments.
d) integration of financial markets at the regional and sub-regional levels, with adequate and transparent supervisory and regulatory mechanisms.
e) strengthening and creation of institutions or financial funds to support development and integration projects in the region, including the coordination of such funds and institutions.
f) cooperation between national and regional development banks.

13. *Hold* a meeting on the Reciprocal Payments and Credits Agreement (RCA) of the Latin American Integration Association (LAIA) to be convened by that association, to which representatives of other reciprocal payment and credit systems of the region will be invited to, as well as Latin American and Caribbean countries that are not part of the RCA, in order to exchange information on this system.

14. In the framework of the strengthening of financial institutions or funds to support development projects, welcome the signing of the South Bank constitutive agreement by the presidents of its member countries, as one of the pillars of the regional integration process.

Trade

15. *Reiterate* the importance of promoting a broader integration of our economies as a means for achieving higher growth and economic and social development, as well as to ensure a more

effective participation of the region in the global economy, while seeking the reduction o technical barriers that hinder trade.

16. *Continue* promoting regional and sub-regional, multilateral and bilateral integration initiatives that are competitive and open to international trade, with the conviction that those initiatives wil lead to the formation of a common Latin American and Caribbean economic space.

17. *Mandate* our Ministers in charge of international trade and their counterparts to devise the measures necessary to preserve trade volumes and market access for the benefit of the region's countries, in order to stimulate intra-regional trade in goods and services. This is considered a key tool in offsetting global demand reduction. In addition, *instruct* them to implement measures to encourage market access for the exports of developing countries, particularly Land Locked Developing Countries and smaller economies. We wish to create market conditions which might allow greater and more equitable participation by these countries in order to reap the benefits of intra-regional trade.

18. *Also urge* the Ministers responsible for international trade to continue working towards the construction of a fair and balanced multilateral trading system capable of meeting the needs of developing countries, in particular the least developed ones. In this regard, *underscore* the urgency of concluding the negotiations of the WTO Doha Round.

19. *Recognize* the valuable contribution that the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) has made to the formulation of policies that promote development and integration of Latin America and the Caribbean, and we support the holding of its 33rd Session at the end of May in Brazil.

Energy

20. *Underscore* that Latin America and the Caribbean face serious challenges in the energy sector, associated with increased demand and instabilities in prices and supply, and we recognize the urgent need to reduce the vulnerability of the region in that regard.

21. *Recognize* the need to take and expand concrete actions to enable smaller economies and least developed countries to achieve energy security through affordable and constant access to diverse forms of energy while at the same time contributing to the sustainable economic and social development of our peoples. We emphasize the importance of cooperation and integration as a means to encourage efficiency and energy saving and a rational and efficient use of both fossil fuels and renewable energy resources.

22. *Take* advantage of the possibilities of regional and sub-regional energy complementarity and, for that purpose, we will enhance concerted efforts to make efficient use of traditional sources of energy and we will establish measures to promote the use and expansion of renewable energy sources, promoting the exchange of expertise and technology transfer on national programs on biofuels, wind turbines, geothermal power, solar power, hydro electricity and other new energy

technologies. We assert, therefore, that it is necessary to make investments in our countries to facilitate the development of our long-term potential in the areas of renewable and non-renewable energy, as well as in technology transfer and technical training necessary to achieve both efficient and sustainable solutions in the production and consumption of energy.

23. *Reaffirm* the significance and importance of energy as a key driver for sustainable development and the sovereign right of each country to establish the conditions for exploiting its energy resources. We thus renew our commitment to advance the processes of regional cooperation and integration based on solidarity and complementarity, in a continuing effort to achieve the sustainable and equitable economic growth of our countries. We recognize, in this regard, the valuable initiatives in cooperation and energy integration being implemented in the region.

Physical integration of infrastructure

24. *Declare* our engagement with the effective geographical integration of Latin America and the Caribbean through the creation of the necessary physical infrastructure and the convergence of the various sub-regional integration processes for which we will undertake the development and implementation of a strategy for the region's physical integration.

25. Therefore, *intensify* our efforts in the field of infrastructure to: foster and implement projects for the expansion of connectivity and projects to increase air, sea and land transportation services, as well as multimodal transportation; design and implement public policies that accommodate the needs of border integration in order to expedite their fulfillment, taking advantage of existing frameworks and initiatives and identify and overcome policy and regulatory difficulties.

26. *Broaden* the exchanges between the Meso-American Project, and the integration mechanisms under UNASUR, through the Council of Planning and Infrastructure (CPI), which will incorporate the IIRSA. We will foster the inclusion of the equivalent Caribbean entities and those established under the ALBA-TCP and PETROCARIBE to this dialogue, as well as encourage the convening of similar meetings between sub-regional mechanisms related to the integration of physical infrastructure in Latin America and the Caribbean.

Science and technology

27. *Encourage* dialogue between Latin America and the Caribbean and other international stakeholders to discuss "Technology and Productive Development."

28. *Recognize* the potential of information and communication technologies for the development of democracy, the economy and social progress. Therefore, we stress the convenience of sharing knowledge, technology and information, taking advantage of connectivity infrastructure and promoting universal access thereto for our citizens.

29. *Strengthen* our efforts to ensure that the important scientific developments achieved in the region in the last decade will be translated into accessible services, goods and processes for the

economies and the peoples of Latin America and the Caribbean, through inclusive, innovativ policies.

Social development

Social programs, poverty and hunger eradication programs

30. *Reiterate* that hunger and poverty represent one of the worst forms of human rights violations. I this regard, the fight to eradicate them is an ethical, political and economic challenge fo everyone. In this endeavor, it is necessary to explore and promote new forms of internationa cooperation and solidarity in support of national efforts, as well as to guarantee access to quality foods which are rich in nutrients, in order to advance, with a human face and social inclusion towards better integrated and inclusive societies in a globalized world.

31. *Concentrate* social policy efforts on the most vulnerable segments of the population to respond t the challenges of poverty, inequity and hunger, so as to attain the greater social and economic development of the Latin American and Caribbean countries on the basis of comprehensiveness non-discrimination and recognition of the person as a legal subject. We will therefore continue promoting social development policies to ensure, within national parameters, an approach tha gives priority to poverty reduction programs, inequity and hunger.

32. In relation to the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), and taking into account that the High-Level Meeting of the General Assembly on MDGs will take place in September 2010, *express* our concern at the slow pace of implementation and we therefore stress the need to promote stronger efforts to achieve the MDGs.

33. *Ensure* that the regional and international trade agreements entered into by the countries of the region are responsive to social development needs, ensure access to nutritious foods in accordance with local customs, and promote the sustainable implementation of the Millennium Development Goals and other internationally agreed development goals.

34. *Promote* the elaboration of a comprehensive public policy plan of action in social issues to carry out cooperation and to ensure the assistance to middle-income countries is more effective, as agreed at high-level international conferences on this matter.

35. *Recognize* that poverty eradication, full and productive employment for all and social integration are interrelated and mutually reinforcing, and that an enabling environment therefore needs to be created so that all these objectives can be pursued simultaneously.

Food and nutritional security

36. *Promote* the regional coordination of initiatives as well as the exchange of technologies and recovery of traditional technologies among other actions to ensure food and nutritional security

through public policies that foster rural development, the sustainable production of food, its safety, storage, distribution and marketing, as well as agricultural credit and insurance.

37. *Incorporate* a human rights perspective and gender awareness into the design and review of national strategies aimed at guaranteeing food and nutritional security, with broad social participation, particularly by the most vulnerable sectors, and we will not allow monopolistic abuses in the food sector.

38. *Promote* the development of technology, production and investments, as well as the introduction of environmentally sound technologies that support agricultural production, improvements in productivity and the competitiveness of small and medium producers, including small farmers, as well as their access to productive resources.

39. *Strengthen* integration processes in the food sector and combine efforts in support of the "Hunger-Free 2025 Latin America and Caribbean Initiative."

Education, health and public services

40. *Expand* regional cooperation to promote universal, equal and quality access to primary education, as well as to health, sanitation and water distribution services, especially for people in conditions of extreme poverty. We will seek to respond to the specific needs of youth, ensure the reduction of child malnutrition and mortality, improve maternal and child health, and fight high-impact epidemics, especially in rural areas.

41. *Also, seek* to ensure that national policies and programmes for youth development address the particular needs of young people and involve them and youth-led organizations in the development of national policies that affect them.

42. *Adopt* flexible and integral programs tailored to the cultural and socio-economic realities of each country, region and population sector, to eradicate illiteracy throughout Latin America and the Caribbean before 2015.

43. *Expand* regional cooperation and implement a comprehensive and coordinated response to ensure, inter alia, the reduction of infant mortality, the improvement of maternal health, especially in rural areas, and the fight against high-impact epidemics such as HIV/AIDS and the H1N1 virus. We will work as well at the national, regional and international levels to reduce and control the further spread of non-communicable diseases which pose a serious threat to development, and welcome the initiative of CARICOM Member Countries to convene at UN Headquarters a High Level Meeting on Chronic Non-Communicable Diseases in 2011.

Culture

44. *Reaffirm* the right of existence of all cultures and the preservation of the traditional and millenary practices inherent to their identity. In this regard, we will foster the history, traditions, values,

cultural diversity and mutual understanding among the peoples of Latin America and th Caribbean, mindful of the positive contribution this will have for the furtherance of region integration. In the same way, we will promote cooperation, cultural integration and th development of creative industries. .

45. *Recognize*, within a framework of respect for human rights and the well-being of our peoples, th right of our States to establish, in accordance with international law, the normative actions an other measures that they deem appropriate in order to preserve and defend the ancestral cultur expressions of their peoples, which should be respected by the international community.

46. *Promote* cultural diversity as an important element of public policies to reduce poverty, promo equity and attain the Millennium Development Goals.

Migration

47. *Promote* full respect for the human rights of migrants and their families, in origin, transit an destination countries, regardless of their migratory status, and we will work to ensure th migration occurs in an informed, safe manner and in accordance with consular dispositions. W reaffirm our unwavering commitment to fight any racism and xenophobia to which migrants ma be subject, strongly asserting their capabilities as political, economic, cultural and scientif actors who are fundamental to the development and integration processes in the societies of orig and destination.

48. *Continue* intensifying measures aimed at preventing and combating trafficking in persons and t smuggling and exploitation of migrants in all its forms and ensuring full protection and care f the victims of these crimes, especially women, children and adolescents. At the same time, w will establish appropriate points of contact for coordination between countries of origin, tran and destination to combat these crimes.

49. *Facilitate* the integration of migrants in their countries of destination and promote the facilitati of residence, work and regularization, in accordance with national legislation.

50. *Promote* cooperation and exchanges of experience and best practices, at the national, regional a sub-regional levels, in the fight against organized crime, migrant smuggling and trafficking persons, especially regarding the protection of the most vulnerable groups of migrants: childre adolescents, indigenous peoples and Afrodecendants.

Gender

51. *Convinced* that the economic and social development of our countries and the attainment of f democracy are only possible in conditions of genuine equity among men and women, include t gender perspective in the design, implementation and evaluation of all public policies.

52. *Commit* ourselves, on the occasion of the OAS's proclamation of 2010 as the Inter-American Year of Women, to continue working towards the full implementation of the Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment and Eradication of Violence against Women (Convention of Belém do Pará), and towards the objectives contained in the Beijing Declaration and its action platform which was adopted fifteen years ago.

53. *Assign* priority to the eradication of hunger and poverty and to actions that ensure that all men and women of our region have adequate food and housing, as well as access to health, including its sexual and reproductive dimension, education and dignified work, in order to achieve decent standards of living.

Sustainable development

54. *Act* with solidarity in the articulation of an international cooperation strategy to strengthen the relationship between the environment and development, supporting the efforts of Small Island Developing States (SIDS), Low-Lying Coastal Developing States and Landlocked Countries and stimulating actions for the protection and recognition of the region's natural heritage.

55. *Encourage* the identification, strengthening and exchange of best practices in sustainable development in the region, in areas such as the incorporation of the environmental component into governmental actions, social participation in public policies, and the sustainable management of natural resources. We will promote initiatives to enable the Latin American and Caribbean countries to become exporters of environmental services.

56. *Strengthen* the Latin American and Caribbean Sustainable Development Initiative (ILAC).

57. *Promote* cooperation in the areas of sustainable management of natural resources, conservation of biodiversity, ecosystems and water.

58. *Recognize* and welcome the decision of Ecuador to promote the Yasuni ITT initiative, for constituting an effective and voluntary measure to tackle the problem of climate change, ensuring the survival of indigenous peoples in voluntary isolation and guaranteeing the conservation of one of the most diverse areas of the world.

59. *Assert* that true actions to tackle the problems derived from climate change – such as sustainable environmental management initiatives for forests and other key ecosystems, such as wetlands; energy efficiency and the development of new and renewable energy sources; the transformation of transport systems; and scientific and technological innovation – can only be sustainable if they are implemented in a socially and environmentally responsible manner, respecting all rights of peoples and communities.

Climate change

60. *Express* our concern at the pace at which global warming is advancing and we underline that it is imperative to combine efforts in support of the initiatives of our countries to jointly tackle the threat that climate change represents. In this regard we emphasize our commitment to the full, efficient and sustained implementation of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Kyoto Protocol in a global effort based on the principles of common but differentiated responsibilities, national capacities and the legitimate aspirations of developing countries.

61. *Promote* within the context of the Conference of the Parties of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, and in the light of this, a transparent, predictable and efficient financial mechanism that ensures the adequate provision of new and sufficient international financial inflows to support our countries' mitigation and adaptation efforts in accordance with the Convention on Climate Change.

62. *Underline* the need for developed countries to fulfil their commitments under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change to provide support in the areas of financing, access to and the transfer of technology, and enough capacity building in developing countries which are particularly vulnerable to climate change effects, such as the least developed countries, Small Island Developing States and Low-Lying Coastal Developing States, in order to provide them with cooperation in mitigation and adaptation, without conditionalities.

63. *Express* our pleasure at the fact that our region will host the 16th Conference of the Parties to the Framework Convention (COP 16), and the 6th Meeting of the Parties of the Kyoto Protocol (MOP 6) and we commit ourselves to support Mexico so that, through a transparent and inclusive negotiation process, it will be possible to attain a comprehensive, ambitious and effective agreement in the Conference, that responds to the needs of our region and results in the strengthening of the international regime established in the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Kyoto Protocol for the benefit of mankind as a whole. We agree that it is necessary that the results of the COP 16th have a legally binding nature as a decisive step in the fight against climate change.

Natural disasters

64. *Underscore* the urgency of developing and implementing the various commitments and mandates undertaken by the governments of Latin America and the Caribbean regarding natural disasters, and in particular the establishment of a mechanism to allow for a rapid, appropriate and coordinated regional response to be implemented at the request of and in collaboration with the affected State. To this end, we emphasize the coordinating role of the relevant regional bodies and organizations in this area.

65. *Highlight* the intrinsic relationship that exists between disaster reduction, sustainable development, the eradication of poverty, and other issues, and we therefore recognize the need to

strengthen our nations' capacity for disaster prevention, mitigation, preparedness, response, and attention through the adoption of appropriate polices and increased international cooperation to support national efforts. We similarly recognize the importance of the Hyogo Declaration and Framework for Action, the Barbados Action Plan, the Inter-American Program for Sustainable Development, and the Florianópolis Declaration of the Second Regional Meeting of International Mechanism on Humanitarian Assistance for the countries that are signatories thereto, in dealing with the problems posed by disasters.

66. *Ensure* the necessary coordination between natural disaster prevention, risk reduction, mitigation, and response mechanisms at the national, regional, and global levels, in our efforts to meet the goals of reducing the risk of natural disasters. We undertake to mainstream disaster risk reduction in the policy and planning process and to build resilience at the community, local, national and regional levels through research, expansion of risk sharing mechanisms, data and information sharing, among others.

67. *Strengthen* regional humanitarian assistance initiatives and promote the establishment of mutual aid protocols or other simplified mechanisms for prompt response to natural disasters.

68. *Instruct* the bodies and agencies of Latin America and the Caribbean with expertise in these areas — the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA), the Central American Natural Disasters Prevention Centre (CEPREDENAC), the Andean Committee for Disaster Prevention and Relief (CAPRADE), and the Specialized Meeting of MERCOSUR on Socio-natural Disasters Risk Relief, Civil Defence, Civil Protection, and International Humanitarian Assistance (REHU) — to define synergies amongst themselves and to put into practice, on an urgent basis, a region-wide coordination and cooperation structure to allow us to optimize our resources and increase our capacity and efficiency to prepare our populations for and response to natural disasters.

69. *Promote* measures in capacity building in environmental protection education, with a view to foster collective awareness and consequently mitigate the effects of man-made natural disasters.

70. *Establish* an open-end working group to pursue these objectives.

Human rights

71. *Reaffirm* the principle that all human rights and fundamental freedoms are universal, indivisible, interdependent and interrelated and, thus, that equal and decisive attention should be given to the application, promotion and protection of civil and political rights, as well as to economic, social and cultural rights, including the right to development.

72. *Promote* and strengthen international cooperation for the promotion and protection of all human rights and basic freedoms, in accordance with the goals and principles set out in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and in international law.

73. *Underscore* the incorporation of the gender awareness approach in our policy design and execution in strategic tasks in the areas of social and economic development, and the strengthening of democracy.

74. *Promote* exchanges of our national experiences in the preparation and presentation of reports to the Universal Periodic Review (UPR), as an efficient tool to assess and promote the state of human rights in all countries on an equal basis, and according to each country's commitments. We will work to preserve the integrity, objectivity and balance of this mechanism.

75. *Give* a renewed impulse to education in the field of human rights. We will promote inclusive and quality educational policies for everyone, with full adherence to values such as tolerance, solidarity, equality, gender awareness and respect for the diversity and cultural identities of our peoples.

76. *Promote* the recognition and the fulfilment of third-generation or solidarity rights, in particular the right to development, as well as considering the rights of the elderly.

Security issues

77. *Consider* it essential to strengthen the Latin American and Caribbean States' capacity for initiative in support of the multilateral system for peace, security and development, based on strict compliance with international law and adherence to the purposes and principles of the United Nations Charter.

78. *Consider* that new threats to security, such as all forms and manifestations of terrorism, the global problem of drugs and related crimes, organized transnational crime, illicit arms trafficking, common crimes that affect civic security, threats to international public health, particularly HIV/AIDS and H1N1, natural disasters, the shipment of radioactive material through our waters, among others, and especially their effects in Latin America and the Caribbean, must be tackled by competent authorities and entities in an integral manner through effective, articulated and joint international cooperation within the framework of respect for the sovereignty of the States, each country's internal legislation, and international law.

79. With the aim of deepening actions in favour of socio-economic development with democracy, justice and independence, we believe it necessary to affirm the concept that the security of our region must address both the aspects of peace and those that concern political, economic and financial vulnerability, regarding international law. In this sense, we reiterate the commitment of the region to co-ordinate actions in order to:

- Stimulate initiatives in favor of disarmament and international security;
- Encourage mutual trust and promote peaceful solutions to problems and conflicts affecting our region;
- Contribute, through cooperation and consultation, to the defense, strengthening and consolidation of democratic institutions;

- Promote and enlarge political dialogue with other States and groups of States within and without the region;
- Co-ordinate positions in order to strengthen multilateralism and democracy in international decision-making;
- Continue with the establishment of zones of peace and co-operation in our region;
- Encourage processes of integration and co-operation for development towards the strengthening of the region's autonomy;
- Embark on an active, co-ordinated struggle to eradicate poverty, hunger, social exclusion, illiteracy and lack of sanitation;
- Reinforce cooperation against drug-trafficking, as well as against terrorism.

80. *Peace* in our region is deeply linked to the respect of these principles: self-determination of nations; non-intervention in the internal affairs of other States; peaceful solution of controversies; proscription of the threat or use of force; juridical equality of the States; and international cooperation for development.

World drug problem

81. *Reaffirm* our countries' commitment in the fight against the world drug problem, through a balanced and integral approach based on the principle of shared responsibility, in light of which we underscore the importance of international cooperation in full respect of the sovereignty of each State.

82. *Reaffirm* our strong commitment to continue to take actions against the demand, production, trafficking and illegal distribution of narcotics and psychotropic substances and related crimes. We are convinced that this fight, which should be part of an integral solution to this problem, that includes the social and economic aspects related to this scourge, will contribute to the social and human development of our societies and the accomplishment of reciprocal commitments.

Terrorism

83. *Strongly reject* terrorism in all its forms and expressions and reaffirm that, whichever its origin or motivation, it does not find any justification whatsoever. We reiterate also our commitment to prevent, fight and eliminate terrorism and its financing through the broadest cooperation and with full respect of the obligations imposed by domestic and international law, in particular those related to human rights, as well as international humanitarian law.

South-South cooperation

84. *Underscore* the importance of South-South cooperation, founded on a spirit of solidarity, without neglecting or replacing traditional sources of cooperation for development.

A/64/520

85. *Promote* South-South and North-South cooperation initiatives to promote sustainable development and we will continue to foster triangular cooperation within the multilateral system.

86. *Call on* the international community to continue providing cooperation to support the development efforts of middle-income countries, as agreed in the El Salvador Consensus on Development Cooperation with Middle-Income Countries. In this context we underline the importance of promoting the timely implementation of United Nations resolutions, as well as undertake actions to accomplish said cooperation.

Lastly

87. *Incorporate* the Plan of Action of Montego Bay as an annex to this Declaration, in order to make further progress in the implementation of the Latin American and Caribbean agenda.

88. The Heads of State and Government of the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean expressed their gratitude to the President of Mexico for the initiative to celebrate the Unity Summit of Latin America and the Caribbean in the Mayan Riviera, Mexico, on February 22 and 23, 2010, and expressed their appreciation to the government and people of Mexico for their warm treatment and hospitality, which contributed to the successful outcome of the Summit.

Mayan Riviera, Mexico, February 23, 2010